

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the final Office Action dated December 10, 2009, are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 28-30, 32 and 34-36, 39 and 41 are pending with Claims 4 and 32 being independent. Claims 11, 37, 40 and 42 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 4 and 32 have been amended. Claims 11, 37, 40, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, for example in Figures 8, 9, 13, and 15 (*e.g.*, step S37), and the accompanying description, such as that at page 22, lines 8-22, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Page 3, paragraph 5 of the Office Action rejects Claims 4, 11, 28, 29, 31-35, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0016378 (Ozawa).

At the outset, Applicants note two anomalies in this rejection. First, while paragraph 5 of the Office Action rejects Claims 4, 11, 28, 29, 31-35, 37, and 38, the body of the rejection on pages 6 and 7 also rejects Claims 30, 36, and 39-42. Since pages 6 and 7 reject these additional claims, Applicants assume that the rejection encompasses Claims 4, 11, and 28-30, 32, 34-37, and 39-42. Second, while paragraph 5 rejects the claims over

Suzuki et al. and Ozawa, pages 5-7, which provide the details of the rejection, reject the claims over Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fitz et al.). Accordingly, Applicants interpret the rejection to mean that Claims 4, 11, and 28-30, 32, 34-37, and 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fritz et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 11, 37, 40, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice and independent Claims 4 and 32 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 4 relates to a digital camera which has a memory for storing images, can be directly connected to a printer, and has a function of directly transmitting an image to the printer. Claim 4 recites that the camera comprises a selection unit configured to select an image to be printed after communication between the digital camera and the printer is established, a print instruction transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating that the image selected by the selection unit is to be printed, an image transmitting unit configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting the image to be printed, the requested image to the printer, and a reception unit configured to receive from the printer a message indicating the status of the printer, and a control unit.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite a display unit that displays an image stored in the memory. Claim 4 has also been amended to recite that the selection unit is configured to select an image to be printed from among images displayed by the display unit, after communication between the digital camera and the printer is established.

Claim 4 has also been amended to recite that the control unit is configured to:

- in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer,
 - keep the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer, and
 - display, on the display unit, a message indicating that
 - the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation, and
 - the digital camera is ready to photograph before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the image to be printed,

until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and

- in response to receipt by the reception unit of the print completion message during the communication when the digital camera is connected to the printer,
 - stop the message display by the display unit,
 - display an image, and
 - enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit.

By this arrangement, when a camera and a printer are directly connected and the camera has transmitted all of the data of the image to be printed to the printer, but before the printer completes printing, the camera can display a) a message indicating that the user can disconnect the communication between the camera and the printer while the printer

prints the image from the camera, and b) a message indicating that the digital camera is ready to photograph before completion of the print process by the printer of the image to be printed.

In contrast, the citations to Suzuki et al. and Fitz et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest when a camera and a printer are directly connected and the camera has transmitted all of the data of the image to be printed to the printer, but before the printer completes printing, the camera can display a) a message indicating that the user can disconnect the communication between the camera and the printer while the printer prints the image from the camera, thereby minimizing the consumption of the camera's battery power if the user disconnects the camera and the printer, and b) a message indicating that the digital camera is ready to photograph before completion of the print process by the printer of the image to be printed.

Therefore, these citations are not understood to disclose or suggest a control unit configured to, in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, keep the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer, and display, on the display unit, a message indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation and the digital camera is ready to photograph before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the image to be printed, until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and in response to receipt by the reception unit of the print completion message during the communication

when the digital camera is connected to the printer, stop the message display by the display unit, display an image, and enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit, as recited by amended Claim 4.

Rather, the citation to Suzuki et al. is understood to merely disclose a system having a camera and a printer, in which the printer receives an image from the camera and prints the image, the function of auto power off is disabled while the printer prints the image, the function of auto power off is enabled after the printer completes the printing of the image, and it is checked if the reception in the printer is completed at S55 of Fig. 7. And the citation to Fritz et al. is understood to merely disclose a system having a camera and a printer in which, when print processing is interrupted by a paper shortage or a broken ACL connection, the printer server sends a message to the printer client and a note is displayed on the screen of the PC (col. 5, lines 56-63), and in which a disconnection request is transmitted from the camera to the printer.

Since the citations to Suzuki et al. and Fritz et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest the control unit recited by amended Claim 4, the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 32 has been amended in a similar manner, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 32 also be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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